Spring is here and a time of renewal is underway. That feeling of renewal was especially appreciated at the YSS Spring Conference on Long Island last week. I attended three workshops and brought home notes for ideas that I can’t wait to implement; I was inspired by Long Island librarians who are working under the same or heavier workloads with less staff; and I was gratified to see so many young librarians choosing to stay in this field.

We know when we enter this career we are not going to build something concrete that the world will come to see or cure a disease, or write a patent. But we love our work because we may be the person to introduce a new reader to the wonders of the world and she will build that structure. We help choose books for students reluctant to read a boring biography (the child’s word, not mine) and become inspired by that person’s drive, ambition, and talent. We open up the world to our teens by giving them a place to call their own (the teen room) and let them choose what to explore. We do so much more, each of us serving our community’s young people with ever shrinking resources.

I hope you all take a moment this spring, as you plan your summer calendars and your summer programs, to start a journal of personal stories. I know that our statistics are important, but it is the individual stories that will personalize the importance of our work. So whether you keep a notebook in your pocket, or “notepad” on a device, remember the connections with parents, grandparents, children and teens and write it down. When NYLA sends out the plea for us to write to our legislators, you can add these personal stories to the letter or postcard. When your board of trustees needs to cut staff positions, your personal stories will be ready, and you can impress them with the value of having a strong youth services staff. When a staff member leaves their position and it is not filled, go to your director and remind them through individual stories why you need a full staff, and how the community will benefit.

Advocacy does work but it is not a speedy process. Over the years that I have been on the YSS board I have seen the New York State Library’s agenda and accomplishments grow. They are able to compile our statistics and help legislators understand our value. They organize regional launches of Summer Reading programs across the state. This is free publicity in local media surrounded by happy legislators. They have many programs, big and small, that focus on our needs, but I was struck by the fact that not only are they integral to our summer programs, early literacy initiatives have been growing as research reinforces the need for our programs. The commitment to our youngest users is being heard. Keep those stories, use those stories, and always, make new stories!

Joyce Laiosa, YSS President
Diverse Communities: Meeting the Challenge

The 37th annual YSS Spring Conference, held on Long Island at the Holiday Inn Islip-MacArthur Airport, was a rounding success thanks to a flawless planning committee. Jeri Cohen, Patchogue-Medford Library, coordinated all registration details for our 219 attendees including librarians as far as Florida! Candace Reeder of the Northport-East Northport Public Library and Kelly Coates of the Sachem Public Library, served as Workshop Coordinators for our fourteen sessions. Kristen Mucha, Half Hollow Hills Community Library, handled our book sale with Barnes and Noble – Lake Grove as well as arranging our keynote speaker, Maria Middleton. Jan Miller, Longwood Public Library, worked on our book donations service project, which collected almost 300 new children’s and teen books for the Suffolk County Family Courts, as well as coordinating our luncheon featured author Rita Williams-Garcia. Cheryl Masie was our Publicity Coordinator and designed 11 outstanding gift baskets for our annual raffle basket fund-raiser. Deborah Hempe of the Middle Country Public Library worked on arrangements and the compilation of all the information in attendee conference folders. The day of the conference, Kelly was our go-to audiovisual troubleshooter! Terry Rabideau, White Plains Public Library, stocked our YSS booth with a variety of great gifts, gathered items for our gift baskets, and worked with JanWay Company to provide our attendees with small notepads for the attendee folders. Cathy Henderson, Greece Public Library and YSS Second Year Director, helped from afar and taught one of our workshops.

To keep costs to a minimum for our conferences YSS asks our members to volunteer their time and talents by teaching our workshops. We had 35 librarians from around New York State agree to present at the conference. We’d like to thank our speakers: Michelle Kenney, Brookhaven Free Library; Cathy Henderson, Greece Public Library; Jessikah Chautin, Syosset Public Library; Martha Mikkeson, Patchogue-Medford Library; Sara Fade, Middle Country Public Library; Jan Miller, Longwood Public Library; Alison O’Reilly, Cutchogue-New Suffolk Free Library; Rita Meade, Brooklyn Public Library; Anne Rouyer, New York Public Library; Renee McGrath, Nassau Library System; Candace Reeder, Northport-East Northport Public Library; Ann Marie Jenkins, Northport Middle School; Patricia Manzi, LINCK; Tracy LaStella, Middle Country Public Library; Amy Johnston, Sachem Public Library; Lisa Kropp and Monica Salo, Half Hollow Hills Community Library; Elaine Perez, Patchogue-Medford Library; Andrea Graham, Northport-East Northport Public Library; Natalie Korsavidis, Farmingdale Public Library; Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, Hunger Solutions New York; Doris Gebel, Northport-East Northport Public Library; Erika Halstead, New York Council for the Humanities; Tammy Walsh, Northport Community Book Club; Lambert Shell and Roseann Evans, Queens Library; Chrissie Morrison and Evelyn Butrico, East Greenbush Community Library; Patricia Mininni and Sylvia Maurer, Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library; Jennifer Caccavale; Penfield Public Library; Karen Balsen, New York State Library; Lisa Herskowitz, Northport-East Northport Public Library; Lori Blend, North Shore Public Library, Kiera Parrott, Darien Library; and Barbara Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System.

Joining the ranks of our presenters, YSS Executive Board Members, Planning Committee Members and several librarians attending the conference agreed to serve as room monitors to make sure our sessions run smoothly. We also had volunteers to help staff our YSS booth, raffle tables, and autographing stations. It took more than 25% of our entire number of conference participants to contribute to the success of the day. Every year, spring and fall, YSS’s conference planners need speakers and helpers. Look for the YSS Active Member Form in this newsletter and let us know what innovative programs and workshops you might be interested in teaching at future conferences or if you’d just like to help out the day of the event.

Our featured author Rita Williams-Garcia gave an inspired speech about the miracles that children and teens witness through reading. Our keynote speaker Maria Middleton garnered rave reviews from attendees on her speech about book art and design, from the cover of a book to the inside art. Attendees stated on their evaluations that they received lots of great ideas from workshops attended. Our five top-rated workshops were Beyond Paint: Technology Programming for Children & Tweens, I Can Do That! From the Bump and Beyond; Interactive Family Programs, Design on a Dime, and A Wealth of Resources for Summer Reading 2012. For those of you who might have been unable to join us on Long Island this year, some of our workshop presenters have posted their presentations to the NYLA YSS events page at http://nyla.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=463. Thank you everyone for a wonderfully successful conference! It was our pleasure to bring all of this information to you and we hope that this will assist you in planning fabulous programs and offering creative services to patrons at your own libraries. We hope to see you next year on May 17, 2013 in Rochester!

By Laura Panter, Third Year Director and Conference Chair
**5 Questions with ALSC President, Mary Fellows**

**What was it like to preside over the ALSC awards?**

It was a blast! The secrecy, the snafus, the careful choice of wardrobe and jewelry beforehand (we received guidelines), the efforts to learn to correctly pronounce tricky names, the walk up to the microphone (without tripping) to begin - all were moments when I felt fully present and able to enjoy what was happening.

**What was the atmosphere like when the awards were announced?**

Electric—especially since one committee group, in the third row so very much in my line of sight, was all decked out in glasses with blinking green lights!

The awards were held in a theater this year, which is atypical. It was terrific as a space. The energy of the room was contained, gathered together, and aimed towards the stage. As presiders, we got to make an entrance from between huge glowing panels. As we came onstage, the audience clapped and cheered for us - I felt like a celebrity!

**Is there anything that struck you as being particularly memorable the morning or day?**

Most memorable was looking out at a theater full of people who were hanging on my next words. Having hundreds of people this excited about books was such an affirmation of the values I believe in.

**Do you have any suggestions for YS librarians thinking of participating in a professional organization at the state or national level?**

Jump in! Being active professionally, on whatever level, brings variety to work, increases your skills, and can present professional opportunities that you could never have imagined.

Don’t predicate your participation based on whether your employer fully funds all of your professional activities. There are innovative employers that do, but it’s not a reality in many libraries. Do expect and advocate for the time and *some* financial support.

To get involved, fill out a volunteer form or ask the president how to help out. Be flexible. I always loved to get the forms for ALSC where volunteers noted their preferences, but also checked the box “I will serve wherever needed!” Especially as a new volunteer, you’re an unknown quantity, so you’re unlikely to get a highly responsible volunteer position right away. And if you’re not called on within a few months, volunteer again. At the ALSC level, there may not be an opening available immediately that fits your needs and experience. Be persistent - you will be appointed to something eventually.

**Thus far, what has been the best part about being ALSC president?**

Announcing the awards was exciting, but I think what’s best about this experience is the learning that it brings. I have such a deep appreciation, based on the last eight months, for what ALSC members do every day to move our profession forward and to create a better future for children through libraries. The people in our profession are positively amazing and just incredibly smart and generous with their energy and ideas. I have also learned a lot about communication and managing sensitive issues from our executive director Aimee Strittmatter, who is the perfect combination of flexible, astute and firm in her work on our behalf. A major part of the learning has been self-knowledge - where my confidence gaps are, where my knowledge needs feeding, and how to communicate effectively in eight different modes on dozens of topics, some of them delicate. I am definitely more effective in our work than I was a year ago!

*Mary Fellows is the Manager of Youth and Family Services for the Upper Hudson Library System and current ALSC President.*

Interview Submitted by Jennifer Ogrodowski
Call for Submissions!

The NYLA Youth Services Section Publications Committee invites you to share your best or most successful Tween program ideas for inclusion in a forthcoming NYLA YSS publication! Send us a description of your best or most successful Tween program idea that you have designed and/or conducted during the past 5 years. Programs should be low cost, promote youth involvement and be adaptable to a variety of library environments. You can also include suggested professional resources on related topics, such as marketing, technology, outreach and policy, which may be included in a bibliography on best practices and practical applications related to this audience. Program submissions MUST include one electronic copy and a signed copyright / permission statement. Please complete the form found at http://www.nyla.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=372 and send to 1st Year Publications Committee member Gail Brown at Gjb71563@aol.com. Signed copyright / permission statement and additional materials may be sent by email (scanned copy), fax or mail. We look forward to receiving your best tween program ideas for inclusion in the upcoming YSS publication!

Beth Zambito, Publications Committee Chair

Ann Gibson Scholarship

This scholarship is given annually to honor the memory of Ann Gibson, a dynamic and dedicated librarian, storyteller, and teacher, in recognition of her many contributions to the field of youth service librarianship. Ann’s career in Western New York was spent in public libraries and several colleges and universities. As a founding member of the Genesee Storytellers, Gibson provided in-service training in children’s literature for librarians and teachers. She was a guiding force in the University of Rochester’s annual storytelling conference. Ann was also an active volunteer for local charities involving children with special needs. The Ann Gibson scholarship is a memorial to Ann’s passionate abilities to share her love of children’s literature and the art of storytelling with thousands of children and adults.

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to a person who has chosen to pursue graduate studies that will lead to New York State certification as a youth specialist in a public library or school media center.

Deadline: May 31, 2012
Notification: by September 1, 2012
Amount: $1,000

Qualifications:
1. Applicant must be a full-time or part-time graduate library student seeking to further their education in services to young people and have completed a minimum of 18 credit hours towards the MLS.
2. Applicant must be a regular or student member of NYLAYSS at the time of submitting the application.
3. Applicant must be directing their course of study towards youth services.
4. Applicant must NOT be an officer or employee, or relative of an officer or employee, of the New York Library Association, New York Library Association Council, or the Executive Board of the Youth Services Section of the New York Library Association.
5. Applicant must not have completed their course work prior to December of the year of the award.
6. Applicant must be a resident of (or employed in) New York State at the time of the award.

Criteria to Judge Recipient:
1. Two supporting statements that document the applicant’s competence and commitment to youth services librarianship.
2. Involvement (i.e., membership, attendance) in organizations, conferences, and publications related to youth services librarianship.
3. A transcript from an accredited library school that documents the applicant’s good academic standing and completion of a minimum of 18 credit hours.
4. The winning applicant must be willing to share her/his educational experience in some form following the YSS Spring Conference.

Narrative Statement:
Please present a brief statement that cites relevant experience you have had in youth services and your philosophy and/or future goals in terms of youth services librarianship.

To download an application, visit www.nyla.org/yss/ and click on the scholarship information link. For further information, please contact the Scholarship Committee chair.

Send, IN TRIPLICATE, copies of the completed application form, two supporting statements, transcript(s), narrative statement, and verification of your current NYLA membership to:
Grace Riario
YSS Scholarship Committee Chair
Valley Cottage Library
110 Route 303
Valley Cottage, NY 10987
845-268-7700
gonzalez@rcls.org

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED OR POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2012.

2012 Pied Piper Winner

This year’s award winner is Penny Meskos from the Fayetteville Free Library for their Young Scientists program. With an emphasis on a broad scope of sciences, it is a great learning experience for all the children involved. This is a program the kids at Fayetteville Free Library will look forward to for years to come.

Congratulations, Penny Meskos and the Fayetteville Free Library!
**The Membership Challenge**

Since elected to the position of YSS 2nd Vice President in charge of membership I have looked at being part of the NYLA organization in a whole new light. I never before, thought about what it actually means to be a member of this organization. Aside from all the benefits, conferences and networking opportunities, membership is much like magazine subscriptions. The amount of subscribers helps to drive circulation and advertising sales. The same can be said for the amount of members participating in NYLA, each individual involved helps drive libraries and advocacy.

Currently, 554 public library professionals belong to YSS. With precisely 1,068 public libraries and branches in New York State a little over half provide youth service representation to NYLA. Considering the financial state and future of our resources and the subtle disregard for the importance of early literacy and youth services, this number is far too low.

In my library alone we have 4 full time Youth Service librarians. Only 2 of us are members of YSS and far less than half in all other departments combined are members of NYLA. In most cases much of the difficulty lies in joining an organization where dues are coming out of the pocket of the individual however, the advantages still far out-weigh the costs. Keeping this in mind it is important to continue to advocate for library services, NYLA membership and librarianship in general.

I encourage every YSS member to take a small step towards increasing their voice and role in advocacy by following these three simple steps.

- Ask around your library to see who is and who isn’t a member of NYLA.
- Remind them that first time members can join at the introductory rate of only $25.
- Send me at least one email at clinder@rcls.org of a youth services co-worker, that is not yet a YSS member, to introduce to them the benefits of membership.

Thanks again for your membership and continued support of NYLA/YSS

Christina Ryan-Linder, YSS 2nd Vice President/Membership

**The Next Generation: Raising Community Minded Souls**

I’ve been thinking a lot lately about how to present opportunities for children and young adults to become civic minded. We should be raising youth to be comfortable as community minded adults. We’ve talked about ways that our library users, staff and trustees can support our libraries by talking, writing, taking part in the political process, but how do we involve our children and young adults today? They are our future front line, and anything we can now do raise their advocacy comfort level will help them be better advocates for community libraries in the future.

Then I came upon The Kidoinfo Field Guide. It's the brain child of Anisa Raoof, who asked “How do we raise children to be thinkers and doers and to care about the world around them?” She created Kidoinfo in Rhode Island to help families discover their own answers to that question. Free copies of the field guide are available in public libraries throughout Rhode Island. True, it does pertain to Rhode Island, but, it is universal in nature.

The 2011 CMK field guide has sections on:
- Raising Community-Minded Children
- Nurture Children’s Communication Skills
- Explore Your Community
- Everyday Ways to be Community Minded
- Community Service Project Ideas
- More Community Service Project Ideas
- Be a Change Maker
- Resource List


Take a look! There are great ideas for library innovations in our own state. Who knows, maybe we can start up our own NYS Field Guide to Raise Healthy Community Souls.

Sue Rokos, YSS Legislative Liaison
YSS ACTIVE MEMBER FORM

Name ________________________________

Institution _________________________________________

Address _________________________________________

City __________________ State ____ Zip Code ____________

Work Phone __________ Home Phone ______________________

Fax _____________________________ *Email _______________________

*We send our newsletter by email only.

I am interested in helping in the following ways:

• Presenter – YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference - YSS Tabletalks ___
  (Presenting a workshop based on your knowledge and expertise)

• Room Monitor - YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference ______
  (Handing out evaluation sheets before the program and collecting them after)

• Running for office on the YSS board ______

• Being on a YSS Committee ______
  (See reverse side for list of committees)

• Working at the YSS booth at Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____

• Writing an article for the newsletter ______

• Planning YSS programs for NYLA conference ______

• Local Arrangements person for YSS Spring Conference _____ NYLA Conference _____

• Web/Computer Work ______

• Work on a task group to develop a YSS publication ______
COMMITTEES AND LISTS OF SKILLS

COMMITTEES
Scholarship
Fred Piper Award
Empire State Award
Publications
Conference Planning
3 Apples Award

LISTSERV
I am interested in joining the YSS Listserv. This member benefit will offer YSS members another resource for networking and interacting with peers from across the state. Discussions are open to anything related to NYLA/YSS as well as questions and discussions about general youth services work in libraries.
Please make sure you have provided your email on the first page.

Member News

Did you have a recent career change, promotion, special activity or honor related to youth services librarianship? Do you have something that you would like to share (new child, grandchild, etc.?) If so, let us know and we will put it in the YSS Transitions section of the YSS newsletter. Take a few moments to let other YSS members know about you.

Name _______________________________ Position _______________________________

Library _______________________________

Address _______________________________ Phone _______________________________

Email _______________________________

I would like to share
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Please continue on a separate sheet if needed.

Please fill out and return to:
Stephanie Kyle, YA Librarian
Mastic-Meriches-Shirley Community Library
407 William Floyd Pkwy
Shirley, NY 11967
631-399-1511 x292 Fax: 631-281-4442
stephaniekyle@yahoo.com